

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



August 17, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/James R. Frees

SUBJECT: Blanket approval to Attend a Pre-launch Reception Co-sponsored by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

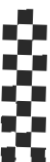
NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a pre-launch reception co-sponsored by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne at the Doubletree Hotel Cocoa Beach, Florida, on or about Saturday, August 26, 2006. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-115, at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 150 representatives of government, the aerospace industry and the community. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served at a cost of approximately \$20 per person and a cash bar will be available. The reception is fully funded by contributions from the contractors with MSFC Office of Protocol providing oversight and management of the event. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR §2635.204(g)(2).

I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with state and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its activities. Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of this social event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

*Mission Success Starts with Safety*

AUG 18 '06 09:59 FR CHIEF COUNSEL MFSC 256 544 0258 TO 912023584355 P.01



Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, or Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne are not covered in this determination and should seek a determination pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding their participation in these events from their local ethics counselor.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Devinti M. Williams at 256-544-0012.

  
James R. Frees  
Acting Chief Counsel